REMARKS

Several editorial corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 58 - 61 have been added. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections or added claims, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 61 are now in the application.

I.   Objection to the Specification

Page 2 of the Office Action dated December 22, 2003 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that the specification is objected to because of informalities on page 1. Appropriate correction has been made herein, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw this objection.

II.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Pages 2 - 3 of the Office Action state that Claims 1 - 2, 9, 11 - 12, 19 - 21, 26 - 27, 30, 32 - 33, 36 - 37, 41 - 42, 45, 47 - 48, 51 - 52, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al., U. S. Patent 6,380,959 in view of Scully et al., U. S. Patent 4,807,154. Page 14 of the Office Action states that Claims 3 - 4, 13 - 14, 22 - 23, 28, 34, 38 - 39, 49, 53, and 55 (and presumably 54, which is separately discussed on Page 18 of the Office Action) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Scully, and further in view of "Running Microsoft Outlook 97" by Russell Borland. Page 18 of the Office Action states that Claims 5 - 6, 15 - 16, 24, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Scully, and further in view of Olivier, U. S. Patent 6,480,885. Page 21 of the Office Action states that Claims 7 - 8, 17 - 18, 25, 29, 35, 40, 44, 50,

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and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Scully,

and further in view of Epstein et al., U. S. Patent 6,327,343. Page 25 of the Office Action also

states that Claims 10, 31, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Wang in view of Scully, and further in view of King et al., U. S. Patent 5,528,745. These

rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claimed invention uses a multi-level hierarchy of calendar events. This multi-

level hierarchy has context events at an upper level, and specific events at a lower level. See

Claim 1, for example, in lines 5 - 8. Thus, for example, a user's calendar might include events for

an "in the office" context between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and at the same time, might include a

specific event of "meeting" from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The "in the office" and "meeting" are

both events, although they are different kinds of events. Notably, specific events are scheduled on

the calendar during context events; refer to lines 7 - 8 of Claim 1.

Neither Wang's teachings nor Scully's teachings have a multi-level calendar event

hierarchy. The different views that are cited from Wang's patent (referring to Fig. 1) as teaching

context events are monthly, weekly, daily, and yearly. This is a discussion of multiple display

approaches, not of multiple levels of events (or even a single level of event): instead, these time

periods are simply periods of time in which calendar events might be scheduled. Fig. 8 is cited in

the Office Action as teaching specific events. However, Wang has no teaching of multiple levels

of events. Instead, Fig. 8 shows a single event displayed in a calendar view that (in this case)

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spans a month. (Wang's approach may alternatively be used to show multiple events in a calendar view; however, the view is not a type of event, and there is no teaching of using different hierarchical levels for Wang's calendar events.) See, for example, col. 6, lines 4 - 11 which define "event" as having a starting and ending time and a description. Examples are presented in this text from col. 6, and include dentist appointments, birthdays, conferences, dinner appointments, and project deadlines. This usage of "event" corresponds to the single event shown in Fig. 8. Col. 6, lines 61 - 67 discuss events and views, and clearly show that Wang's "events" are something to be scheduled on a calendar, whereas his usage of "view" (i.e., a weekly, monthly, or yearly view) pertains only to displaying the calendar.

Thus, Wang's Figs. 1 and 8 fail to teach a multi-level hierarchy of calendar events. In fact, there is no teaching nor any suggestion in any part of the Wang reference that suggests use of a multi-level hierarchy for calendar events, or that context events might be used along with specific events that are scheduled during those context events, as in Applicants' claimed invention.

Scully also fails to teach a multi-level hierarchy. Instead, a single level of events is defined. See, for example, col. 16, lines 3 - 63, where a number of different events are described with reference to bit settings within a "Detail Data Structure" (col. 15, line 28). Applicants note that Scully's teachings indicate that more than one of these bits can be set concurrently. (Col. 15, lines 62 - 64.) So, for example, a particular message might have the bits set for "Offsite

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(Confirmed)" and "Confirmed Meetings (Attended)", in the case where the calendar owner will attend an offsite meeting. However, in contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, there is no teaching nor any suggestion in Scully that a multi-level hierarchy could be used to represent these 2 pieces of information, in order to automatically understand that a specific event (i.e., attending a meeting) occurs during a context event (i.e., the owner is offsite).

Applicants are entitled to have their claimed subject matter interpreted as a whole. 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Thus, it is necessary, if Applicants' claims are to be rendered obvious, to find references that teach (*inter alia*) calendar events organized as a multi-level hierarchy, including context events and specific events. The references simply do not teach, or suggest, this approach to organizing calendar events.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of their independent Claims 1, 26, and 41 are not taught by Wang and/or Scully. These claims are therefore deemed allowable. By virtue of the allowability of the independent claims, Applicants' dependent claims 2, 9, 11 - 12, 19 - 21, 27, 30, 32 - 33, 36 - 37, 42, 45, 47 - 48, 51 - 52, and 57 are deemed allowable as well.

With regard to dependent Claims 3 - 4, 13 - 14, 22 - 23, 28, 34, 38 - 39, 49, and 53 - 55, Page 44 of Borland (which is cited on Pages 14 - 18 of the Office Action) merely states that automatic reply features for e-mail messages can be used within Outlook. However, this reference fails to teach use of a multi-level event hierarchy, and as demonstrated above, neither

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Wang nor Scully provides this teaching. Dependent Claims 3 - 4, 13 - 14, 22 - 23, 28, 34, 38 - 39, 49, and 53 - 55 are therefore deemed patentable.

With regard to dependent Claims 5 - 6, 15 - 16, 24, and 43, the cited reference in Olivier (discussed on Pages 18 - 21 of the Office Action) merely describes how instant messaging works. This reference fails to teach use of a multi-level event hierarchy, and as demonstrated above, neither Wang nor Scully provides this teaching. Dependent Claims 5 - 6, 15 - 16, 24, and 43 are therefore deemed patentable.

With regard to dependent Claims 7 - 8, 17 - 18, 25, 29, 35, 40, 44, 50, and 56, the cited reference in Epstein (discussed on Pages 21 - 25 of the Office Action) states that incoming facsimile and e-mail messages may be processed with Epstein's call forwarding techniques. However, when this reference is combined with Wang and/or Scully, there is still no teaching of using a multi-level event hierarchy. Dependent Claims 7 - 8, 17 - 18, 25, 29, 35, 40, 44, 50, and 56 are therefore deemed patentable.

For the rejection of dependent Claims 10, 31, and 46, the cited text (from Page 25 of the Office Action) discusses selecting a time period when attempting to schedule multiple attendees at a meeting, and use of scheduled events for the various attendees. However, there is no teaching of a multi-level event hierarchy, and thus this reference cannot be combined with Wang and/or Scully to yield the limitations of Applicants' independent or dependent claims. Dependent

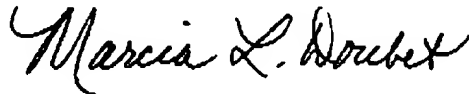Serial No. 09/670,844   -32-   Docket RSW9-2000-0068-US1

Claims 10, 31, and 46 are therefore deemed patentable.

As has been demonstrated, the cited references do not teach the limitations of Applicants'

claimed invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §103(a)

rejection.

III.   Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal

of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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